

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 – 6:00pm

Folk Teen Center – 3910 Clifton Road

PRESENT: Paul Brown, Marc Bush (arrived 6:04), Robert Douglas, III, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard (arrived 6:08), Rose Marie Ponton, Randy Scott

ABSENT: Judi Rossabi

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Brown, Candice Bruton, Sue Davis, Courtney Hemphill, John Hughes, Charles Jackson, Jean Jackson, Darryl Kosciak, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Sheena Monroe, Brooks Mullane, Lane Newsome, Marcie Richardson, Laurie Thore, Don Tilley, Mary Vigue (Budget & Evaluation), Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Folk Teen Center. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation March Employee of the Month, Charles Jackson.

OLD BUSINESS

Robert Douglas, III took prerogative of the Chair and stated that the Commission would now hear the baseball update presentation.

Baseball Update

Jean Jackson, Athletics Director, stated that there were challenges and concerns during 2006 baseball season which lead to forming an Athletic Taskforce. The taskforce consists of coaches from various areas, two Parks and Recreation Commissioners (Lori Galbreath and Ken Free), a Guilford County School Athletics Director, an owner of a car dealership, Terri Wallace, John Hughes, Don Tilley and herself. The taskforce met on December 19, 2006, January 8, 2007 and January 22, 2007. The primary objectives of the taskforce were to make registration process improvements, review program dates, and determine whether to provide recreational baseball or be nationally sanctioned.

Lori Galbreath, Commissioner, stated that the taskforce worked through the registration process and established parameters and guidelines regarding players and coaches. The taskforce concluded that baseball will be a recreational sport and created a registration process for 2007. Galbreath stated that she believes the taskforce met the objectives that were set out.

Jackson then turned the presentation over to Don Tilley, Assistant Athletics Director.

Tilley stated that previous registrations were held one day at one location. The taskforce determined that this year baseball registration will be a two week process and participants can register at 501 Yanceyville Street Monday thru Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. Tilley stated that registration will also be held at eight different locations and dates throughout the community during the two week registration period. Registration will end on the April 24, 2007 and a coaches meeting will be held April 29, 2007 where the coaches will be given registrant information. Files for participants will be kept in the athletic office. Practices will begin in April consisting of practice and practice games. Games will begin on

April 28, 2007. Games will be held Monday thru Thursday. Two city tournaments per age group will be held at the end of the season.

Paul Brown inquired about the PAYS card.

Jackson stated that the Parents Association for Youth Sports is a program that parents of participants are required to take that encourages positive behavior. This program began in 2001 and has been very successful with approximately 7,000 participants.

Robert Douglas, III recognized the presence of City Councilwoman Goldie Wells.

Budget and Fee Schedule Update

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, stated that at the previous Commission meeting Bonnie Kuester informed the Commission that the Department Heads along with the City Manager's Office met to review and discuss revenue and reductions. At that time the Commission was informed that staff was going to review the Parks and Recreation fee schedule that was presented to the Commission earlier in the year to see if the department has any areas that could increase revenue. Maxson mentioned the following proposed fee schedule revisions that were previously sent to the Commission:

- Picnic Shelter Rentals to increase weekend and holiday fees by 10%.
- A fishing fee of \$1.00 per adult at Country Park, Hagan-Stone Park, and Hester Park.
- A \$1.00 increase for the green fees at Gillespie Golf Course.
- A \$5.00 registration fee for Recreation Center programs.
- Fee increase for rental booth space at the Farmer's Curb Market.
- Increase in Sportsplex fees due to the recent completion of the Sportsplex Study.

Mary Vigue, Budget and Evaluation, informed the Commission the Sportsplex Study began in August 2006. This study consisted of collecting data, such as numbers based on service description, the amount of time of the service, how much facility space was dedicated to that service, the number of visitors, spectators, participants and cost data. Based on the 2006-07 budget, a direct and indirect cost was determined for the services provided. Also taken into account was the annual cost of operating the Sportsplex. Based on these studies an hourly rate was figured for the Sportsplex. Market research was conducted both locally and nationally. The study is available for the Commission to review.

Lane Newsome, Sportsplex Manager, stated that the Sportsplex staff supports the study recommendations.

Maxson concluded stating that the proposed fee increases will generate an increase of one hundred seventeen thousand dollars (\$117,000) with anticipation of the same level of program participation. The proposed fee schedule will be placed on the Parks and Recreation web site. This item will be presented at the next Commission meeting and staff will bring forth any public input regarding the proposed fee changes.

Capital Improvement Program

Candice Bruton, Strategic Planning Administrator, stated that the Commission was given the proposed 2007-2013 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program (CIP) package. The CIP is a six year planning tool that the city uses to help plan and finance capital needs. Each capital project budget is at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) with an anticipated life span of ten years. All CIP projects are driven by our 1998 Comprehensive Master Plan. This item will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

The Commission decided to schedule a work session to review the CIP package prior to the next Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bassmaster of America

Sue Davis, Lakes Supervisor, stated that Lake Townsend will host the 2007 Bassmaster of America fishing tournament May 19-20, 2007. The Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating this event with the Greensboro Sports Commission and the Greensboro Convention and Visitor's Bureau. This event will be aired on ESPN and is expected to attract several hundred spectators.

Youth First Programs

Connie Brown, Youth First Assistant Coordinator, introduced Sheena Monroe, new employee at Folk Teen Center. Monroe will be visiting the community and surveying what community needs and wants are for the Folk Teen Center. Brown informed the Commission of the following programs that Folk Teen Center currently hosts and/or provides:

- Karate
- AAU Basketball practice
- Girls Inc.
- Y-Teens
- Mother's Day Essay Contest
- Student of Month Award
- Student of the Year Award
- Partnership with the Ice House to offer free ice skating lessons
- Tiny Tots Easter Egg Hunt
- STIFF
- The Guilford Teen Advocates
- Teen Camps

Potential future programs: Chess Club and SAT prep classes

Brown informed the Commission of various committees that she and Darryl Kosciak are associated with.

David Hoggard suggested that Folk Teen Center host financial classes to the youth in the community.

Darryl Kosciak, Youth First Coordinator, stated that a grant has been submitted to the Governor's Crime Commission. This grant funds employment for three individuals who would provide outreach assistance to youth as part of the Hope Project regarding intervention and prevention of gangs for individuals ages 11-18. Kosciak informed the Commission that he is currently working on an in-depth presentation regarding the Hope Project and youth gangs.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Bonnie Kuester commended Brooks Mullane, Park Maintenance and Program Support Supervisor, for her leadership regarding the Steelman Park enhancements. Kuester stated that a Commission Tour will be planned in the near future to visit Parks and Recreation facilities. Kuester invited the Commission to attend the annual Bicentennial Reenactment that will be held this upcoming weekend with events at Tannenbaum and Price Parks. Kuester thanked the Commission for their commitment, dedication, and involvement with the Parks and Recreation Department and the citizens of Greensboro.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Randy Scott thanked Douglas for the letter he created on behalf of the Commission and sent to the Mayor regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meeting that was held in February.

Rose Marie stated that she attended one of the Reenactment programs held last evening and commended the speaker.

Marc Bush thanked Douglas for the letter he created on behalf of the Commission and sent to the Mayor regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meeting that was held in February. Bush thanked Councilwoman Goldie Wells for attending this Commission meeting.

Paul Brown Commended Darryl Kosciak and Connie Brown for their efforts with Folk Teen Center programs. Brown thanked Councilwoman Goldie Wells for attending this Commission meeting. Brown suggested that the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Liaison, Jim Rumley, be directly contacted and invited to future Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission meetings.

Ken Free thanked Douglas for the letter he created on behalf of the Commission and sent to the Mayor regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meeting that was held in February. Free asked if this Commission has ever been a policy making body. Kuester replied stating no, that this Commission has always been an advisory board.

Robert Douglas, III reported that the Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation held their first full meeting. Douglas commended Courtney Hemphill, Resource Development Coordinator, for her efforts in coordinating this foundation. Douglas feels this will be a very successful program.

With no further business Douglas adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation